in times past, and still is preserved, with local variations. Concerning the *zedsidze*, it should be noted that he was not esteemed very much by the relatives of his foster parents, who saw in him the loss of their individual share in the inheritance. And it often happened that, after living in the family of his parents-in-law as a son and sharing their labor and hardships, the *zedsidze* was driven out without any recompense. In view of this, it is not strange that the *zedsidze* should take the precaution beforehand of having his father-in-law's property transferred legally to himself, in order to avoid these unfortunate occurrences.

In the event the head of a family died while his children were under age, the Khevsurs entrusted the management of their property to their mother's brother.

Illegitimate children among the Khevsurs had no inheritance rights. Among the Pshavs, if a man abandoned his first wife because of her sterility and took a second, the children of the latter enjoyed full inheritance rights because they were regarded as legitimate.[5] The Svans instantly killed their illegitimate children, but in case they were left alive, they were devoid of any inheritance rights from the paternal as well as the maternal side.[6]

Individual property rights of males among the Georgian Highlanders before the division of the family were very small, and in times past, were almost non-existent, except for such everyday necessities as clothing and arms; but even these things were under the control and supervision of the head-man of the group (the *mama-katsi*), when the "joint family" represented the social unit. The property of the family represented the joint ownership of all its members. The sale of the family property could take place only with the consent of all members of the family, and it had a preferential character. Among the buyers, the preference was given to the persons related to the family.

Every male member, as mentioned before, inherited a share of the family property, and at the same time he was responsible for the payment of a portion of the family debts. The refusal of his inheritance rights did not relieve him of this obligation. All male

[5] See "Divorce."
[6] Kovalevsky: a, II, 11.